

Editor
DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

Assistant to the Editor
ROBERT F. EDWARDS
For information on preparation of
manuscript, see advertising page 2

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EDITORIAL

For Realism in Medical Legislation

CHANGES IN THE administration and in the legislature of the State of California that were brought about by the recent elections and reapportionment give occasion for this journal and the California Medical Association to state anew a readiness to consult with any appropriate executive officers or legislative bodies where the Association's advice and experience can be useful in promoting the public health and extending gains in medical care that are traditionally the utmost purpose of our profession.

We welcome the new executive officers and legislators to their tasks and we call their attention to our Association's record of continuing interest in all public actions bearing on the conditions of medical practice and the health of the people of this State.

For some years the CMA, primarily through its officers, its Committee on Legislation and the Public Health League, has maintained good lines of communication with governmental bodies. We believe that this exchange of intelligence has been mutually beneficial and that it has well served the people of this State in matters bearing on medical care needs, cost, quality and distribution.

Particularly to the new administrator of California's Health and Welfare Agency we offer whatever help we can give, recognizing that the Medi-Cal Plan, still in the "wearing in" stage, is beset with budgetary and other administrative

problems in which, potentially, the CMA has deep involvement. We believe that continuing exchange of information and consultation between the State agency and the California Medical Association can bring solutions that will be firmly grounded medically, economically and politically.

Indeed we believe that, in the case of any governmental proposal or action dealing with medical care, consultation early and continuously between the representatives of government and representatives of the medical profession is a step toward the best of political practicality and medical realism.

Audio-Digest's Benign Cycle

AUDIO-DIGEST FOUNDATION serves medical education both through its regular business of supplying tape recordings of new medical information and through contributions from its cash surpluses to various organizations supporting the training of physicians. Hence we celebrate the gains in both directions that were recently reported by Audio-Digest and we extend congratulations to those who brought them about.

Mr. Claron L. Oakley, vice-president and editor of Audio-Digest, and Mr. K. L. Hamman, manager-treasurer, reported that:

- In 1966 the total of booked subscriptions for a 12-month period passed the million-dollar mark for the first time.
- Subscribers have paid \$5,894,090 to Audio-Digest in the 12 years the organization has been sponsored by the California Medical Association.
- Since 1960 the number of subscribers, expressed as a percentage of physicians in private practice in the specialties covered by Audio-Digest service, has more than doubled.